



20th Anniversary Disability Awareness

ESSAY CONTEST

MERIL is sponsoring an essay contest about “Attitudes” toward people with disabilities. This essay contest is open to any elementary, junior high, or high school student in these northwest Missouri counties (Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Clinton, DeKalb, Gentry, Holt, Nodaway, and Worth). Top entrants in each division will be honored at a special awards ceremony to be held in St. Joseph on June 25th, 2014, 6:00pm-8:30pm. For more information, contact Deb Powers, Chief Brand Officer at debp@meril.org 816.279.8558 x. 1007 or toll-free 1.800.MERIL4U

Guidelines

- Limit one essay submission per person.
- Entries must be original and previously unpublished.
- Include a registration form with your entry.
- It is not the essay length which will gain you marks; it is the content. **Use your best judgment in selecting a length that is appropriate for your age bracket.**

Recommendations:

Age 6 and below-10 years (50-100 word essay or submit a drawing if age appropriate)

Age 11-14 years (400-600 word essay)

Age 15-18+ years (750-1,000 word essay)

- Entry Deadline: postmarked by April 30, 2014
- Entries **WILL NOT** be returned. It is important that you maintain a copy for your files.

Theme

“Attitudes” about people with disabilities.

Content

Entrants have these options:

- Interview a child or adult with a disability and describe his/her experiences with the attitudes of others.
- Read a book about people with disabilities and describe the impact of attitude on their lives.
- Write about your own observations or feelings about attitudes toward people with disabilities.
- Draw a picture expressing your thoughts about attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Judging Criteria

- Use of creativity and originality to project the theme
- Writing style relative to age of entrant
- Drawing relative to age of entrant
- Spelling, grammar and punctuation count
- Sensitivity of entrant to issues facing people with disabilities
- Knowledge of issues about people with disabilities

Submit Essay To:

Deb Powers
Chief Brand Officer
MERIL
4420 S. 40th Street
St. Joseph, MO 64503

Essay Contest Sponsored by MERIL Platinum Sponsor:

